

# National Park International Bulletin



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Your support will enable us to continue sending complimentary copies to colleagues working in protected areas in developing and Third World countries, many of whom have written to express their appreciation for this new opportunity to keep up to date with initiatives, research and news from around the globe.

This issue contains contributions from readers in Vietnam, Alaska, Hungary, New Zealand, the UK, Austria and Australia.

Whether you wish to write about a specialist subject — your park or protected area perhaps — send a short news item or a letter for publication in response to an NPIB article, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Editor – Stewart Bonney

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some of the earliest North Americans at a site along the Noatak River. This type of work, and earlier projects that looked below volcanic ash layers, are giving us a better picture of what that part of the continent was like thousands of years ago, and providing insights on how the climate has changed.

"This year we're also dealing with some recently emerging needs. Alaska Pacific University (in Anchorage) conducted training for local Russian tour operators and craftspeople, working on ways to conduct tourism on protected lands. National parks in Alaska get about two million visits a year, while at the same time protecting the resources. How to encourage use, regulate it, and sustain tourism are all very timely topics in the Russian Far East."

Under the decade-old proposal to establish an international park, the United States would designate four existing park units (Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak National Preserve) to be the American component to the international park. Already the programme uses these parks as a basis for the research being accomplished, as it works with many of the surrounding communities from St Lawrence Island to Barrow.

At a recent meeting of researchers, Vladimir Etylin, Chukotka's representative in the Russian parliament, said he is working to move the park idea forward, a plan that is also favoured by Chukotka's governor. If Russia establishes a federal park in Chukotka, discussions could begin in earnest with the United States regarding an international designation by both countries. At this time, no legislation is being considered by the United States Congress.

While the political wheels slowly move, international research has moved briskly. Increasingly, Beringia projects — whether academic or community-based — have a "Russian component". Some of the studies involve doing some or all of the research on the Russian side. In 2001, Beringia projects in Russia included a survey of the traditional use of seabird habitat, the facilitation of Native-to-Native co-opera-

Right: the emblem of the Beringian Heritage International Park.

Below: map of the central Beringia area, showing the main settlements.

